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*A Dialogue between a Person of Qualities Chamberland
And a Neighbouring Gentleman, Concerning the
Prisoners to be sent to London.*

Edinburgh, April 29th. 1708.

Chamberland,

Sir,
WHAT think ye of this Condition We are in, that Our Peers and Gentlemen must be tryed in England for supposed Crimes by the Enemies of Our Country?

Gentleman, As to the first part of Your Query, I am heartily sorry for the Misfortune of those Gentlemen who are to be Tryed. But I must say, it had been a more Melancholly Scheen, to have seen this Country in Blood and Confusion, by a Popish, and Malignant Army, under a Prince, Educate in the Romish Idolatry and Superstition, and French Maxims of Government. As to the Judge is who are to Try them being Enemies to our Country, is what cannot be said on good grounds, and I am Satisfied they shall have a fair and Impartial Tryal.

Chamb. For all your confidence of their Candor and Justice, GOD keep me and my Good Friends out of their Reverence. But as to the Melancholy Scheme you speak of is but a Sham Story, for the French Expedition at this Juncture was only a Politick Trick of that Great Monarch who is the Wonder of the World for his Wisdom and Conduct, to divert the English Fleet that he might get home his Plate Fleet with Safety.

Gent. Well said Neighbour, this is a very pretty devise to cover the Disgrace of the Disappointment of Monsieurs Grand project which he boasted of, was so well founded that there was scarce any Room left to doubt of Success. The Marquis de Nange having been here had received all imaginable Assurance of the People of this Country, That would concur in his design, and were longing with impatience to have their Lawful Sovereign over them to Relieve them from their present Misery and Oppression. But further, if that was his Design, he put a confounded Trick upon the Pope, his Ghostly Father, in making him pick the pockets of the Church Treasury, of a Million of Crowns, for the Meretorious Work of fixing an Injured Catholick Prince upon the Throne of his Ancestors, by which Means the Northern Heresie would be Rooted out; And the Ecclesiastick Revenue of these Kingdoms turned into the Right Channel, for which end he set the Sacred Colledge to pray fervently that the Blessed Virgin might prosper his Expedition. The Venetians he had so far perswaded of the Certainty of Success, and how profitable it would be for the Catholick Cause, that in their answer to Her Majestys Ambassadors Memorial, the Crown of Britain was insert for Queen of Britain, and several others they spunk'd out such Words as shewed they shortly Expected a Revolution here.

Besides all this and much more, that plainlie shews the French King was in Earnest in his Attempt; I would gladlie know what Port that Plate Fleet came into, or what was then umber of Ships that brought the Plate home. Or how much is of it? For any thing I hear he has not got Plate home this Season to pay the charges of his Expedition; Nor do I hear, that such Excuse is made in France to cover the Disgrace of the Disappointment; It being fairly owned, that they were mistaken in their conjectures about the readynes

of the British Fleet, which was much sooner Equipt then they Expected, and that the People here did not seem so forward for a Revolution, as they had promised; And to speak Truth, for as wise as Monsieur is reckoned to be, his Prudentials afaid'd him; if ever he expected the People here whose Lives and Fortuns depend upon the Revolution, that could be so imposed on as to believe they could be Secure under a Popish Government and French Slavery.

I believe Monsieur is convinced that the Scots Whigs are not so Blindfold as to concur in his design, who some of them were Whiddled to go along with the Country patriots imposing the Union, whereby the Government is secured in the Protestant Line, the Sage advice of a Reverant Prelat (who was to have Crown'd the Pretender in the new Church had the Attempt Succeeded,) took effect Prety well.

Let alone your Addressing (said he to his Friends) the Whigs, will do our VVork for us, much better then you can. I suppose most of the Revolution party who opposed the Union, see now what was at the Bottom of the great Contry Patriots Arguments against it, Viz. The unhinging the Protestant Succession, and what would be the Consequence of that is no hard Matter to Guess.

Chamb. This is your day of rejoycing; But GOD Help the Honest Gentlemen who ly under the Hatchis.

Gent. I rejoyce not at the Calamity of any Person, and I heartily Wish few or none of the Gentlemen suspected may be found Guilty, but I assure you, be concerned in it who will; I can never be persuaded they are Friends to their Country who would change the best Government upon Earth for Popery and French Tyrany and I am Satisfied these Suspected will have a fair Trial, and if their Innocence appear, they will not suffer any manner of hurt.

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